



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

MAY 24 2006

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

CVO-100
WTR.1-10

MAY 19 2006

Mr. Rodney McInnis
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
501 West Ocean Blvd, Suite 4200
Long Beach, CA 90802-4213

Subject: Clarification of Request for Reinitiation of Section 7 Consultation on the Long-term
Central Valley Project and State Water Project Operations Criteria and Plan (OCAP)

Dear Mr. McInnis:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is seeking to clarify Reclamation's letter of April 26, 2006, requesting reinitiation of consultation on the Coordinated Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project (CVP and SWP) operations. Reclamation is making the request to reinitiate formal consultation pursuant to 50 CFR §402.16(d), because of newly listed species and designation of critical habitat. It has come to our attention, however, that our letter of April 26 might have been read to limit the request for reinitiation as only addressing the effects of CVP and SWP operations on the newly listed species and designated critical habitat. That was not our intent. Instead, Reclamation is requesting consultation on the effects of long term CVP and SWP operations on all federally listed species and designated critical habitats which may be affected by those operations. Reclamation understands that new information has been developed since issuance of the current OCAP Biological Opinion in October, 2004, and that this information will be considered in the consultation.

Reclamation will address the effects to each of these species and designated critical habitats in a Biological Assessment, which is currently under preparation. The Biological Assessment will be transmitted to NMFS as soon as it can be completed.

Please contact Ann Lubas-Williams at 916-979-2068 if you have questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Ronald Milligan
Operations Manager

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cc: CC-100
MP-100, MP-105, MP-115, MP-150, MP-400, MP-700
NC-100
SCC-100

Ms. Kaylee Allen
Solicitor's Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

Mr. Michael Aceituno
Sacramento Area Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-300
Sacramento, CA 95814-4706

Ms. Barbara McDonnell
Environmental Services
Department of Water Resources
3251 S Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95816

Mr. Russ Strach
Sacramento Area Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-300
Sacramento, CA 95814-4706

Mr. Bruce Oppenheim
Sacramento Area Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-300
Sacramento, CA 95814-4706

Ms. Diana Jacobs
California Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

✓ Mr. Carl A Torgersen
Chief, Operations Control Office
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814